

# TEACHING & E-LEARNING NEWS

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## STUDENTS USING WEBCT PASS COURSES AT GREATER RATE, FAILURE REDUCED BY NEARLY 10%

The Faculty Center for Teaching and e-Learning has looked at the retention data for the Spring 2004 through Spring 2005 semesters to compare the WebCT-enhanced courses versus the traditional, non-WebCT-enhanced courses. The results showed that the failure rate for students in WebCT courses was reduced by 9.60% when compared to the non-WebCT courses.

What does this reduction in

failure mean, exactly? In terms of the total numbers of students affected, the results are tremendous. For example, if the non-WebCT students had passed their courses at same passing rate as the WebCT students did during the three semesters we examined, then 2457 extra students would have passed their courses!

Obviously, there are many different reasons why students pass WebCT courses

at a greater rate, and we believe the issue deserves further study. We know that student retention efforts on campus are multiplying, and understanding how WebCT increases student retention can play a role in these efforts. If you are interested in learning more about WebCT or conducting research into teaching and learning, please let us know. We would be glad to help.

□ J. Garvey Pyke, Instructional Consultant

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Student failure rate is reduced by nearly 10% in WebCT courses when compared to non-WebCT courses*
- *WebCT is used in more than 650 classes for over 12,000 students at UNC Charlotte*
- *The use of WebCT at UNC Charlotte has increased sixfold in the past 3 ½ years*

## FACULTY FELLOW FOR FCTeL SOUGHT

The Faculty Center for Teaching and e-Learning has announced an opening for a Faculty Fellow to begin August 1, 2006, and continue for a two-year appointment. Any tenured member of the faculty is encouraged to apply.

The FCTeL Fellow will participate in a variety of activities with the Faculty Center for Teaching and e-Learning. One of the pri-

mary duties of the FCTeL Fellow is to develop and conduct workshops for university faculty in a broad variety of instructional areas (e.g., innovative teaching methods, best practices, current issues in higher education, etc.).

Another important responsibility for the FCTeL Fellow is to work on major projects or initiatives as determined by FCTeL and

the Fellow. Such projects may involve research in teaching and learning, e-learning, student retention, and other areas important to the needs of the university.

For further information about the position and how to apply, please view our website: <http://www.fctel.uncc.edu/>

**The deadline to apply is May 1, 2006.**

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## INTERNSHIPS BLEND THEORY WITH PRACTICE: LEARN HOW TO IMPLEMENT THEM IN YOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY!

“THIS  
INTERNSHIP  
EXPERIENCE  
WAS THE  
PERFECT WAY  
FOR ME TO PUT  
INTO PRACTICE  
ALL THE  
THEORY AND  
RESEARCH I  
READ ABOUT IN  
MY CLASSES.”

*This internship experience was the perfect way for me to put into practice all the theory and research I read about in my classes. Now I feel I can enter the workplace with the kind of experience that will make me a better professional.*

This quote illustrates what is central to an internship program: the opportunity for students to gain professional experience by blending theory with practice. The Department of Labor identifies internships as one of the most important college experiences because students need the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills in a workplace setting.

The Department of English

has offered internships for undergraduates and graduate students for the past 18 years. This semester we have 17 students undergraduates and graduate students enrolled in our internship course. Yes, “course.”

Traditionally, internships are monitored through one-on-one meetings between the student and the faculty who coordinates the program. However, our department initiated an internship course where students regularly meet together to discuss their experiences with the instructor and with each other. Why a course? First, students learn from each other what it means to be a professional:

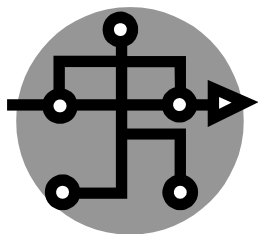
how to communicate and dress appropriately for the environment and how to use the skills they developed at UNC Charlotte. Secondly, students learn important differences between academia and “the real world.” Finally, students engage in reflective thinking, writing, and talking as they integrate their “hands-on” experiences with what they have learned in class.

Please feel free to contact me if you want to discuss internship programs!

☐ *Deborah S. Bosley, Internship Coordinator, Department of English (ext. 7-3502)*

<http://www.english.uncc.edu/internships.html>

## COMBAT PLAGIARISM WITH TIMELY WORKSHOP FROM THE LIBRARY



Are you looking for help in designing assignments and classroom environments that prevent plagiarism? If so, you may want to consider inviting the Atkins Library to conduct the following interactive workshop for you.

The assumption of the workshop is that plagiarism prevention is equivalent to good pedagogy. It also involves discussion about the intricacies and different levels of plagiarism.

The workshop needs at least 8

participants. We divide into four groups, with each group fulfilling an assignment. One group reads a provocative chapter and discusses the nature of plagiarism. Another group designs an assignment that is a plagiarist’s nightmare; another designs an assignment that is a plagiarist’s dream. Finally, another group designs a classroom environment of integrity. Each group leads the entire workshop in a lively discussion of their findings.

Workshop participants re-

ceive a packet of materials, many which are from the library’s resources guide on plagiarism (<http://library.uncc.edu/plagiarism>), that can be used when developing courses and assignments.

To arrange for this workshop, please contact Donna Gunter, Coordinator, Instructional Services, Atkins Library, [djgunter@email.uncc.edu](mailto:djgunter@email.uncc.edu), ext.7-4941.

☐ *Donna Gunter, Coordinator, Instructional Services, Atkins Library*

## WEEKEND WEBCT SUPPORT SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE FOR FACULTY!

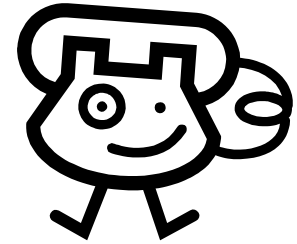
WebCT faculty may now take advantage of a special telephone line that is staffed from 1:00 to 5:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Student workers trained in WebCT Campus Edition and WebCT Vista are available to assist faculty with basic WebCT questions such as how to add content and upload questions using Respon-

sus. WebCT faculty may call 704-687-4791 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm on weekends to speak directly to one of our student assistants. For WebCT support during the regular weekday hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm), please continue to call the Help Center at extension 7-3100, and you will be transferred to an Instructional Technology Consultant.

**NOTE:** Students needing WebCT support should use our online help request form for fastest and best service: <http://www.webct.uncc.edu/request/studenthelp.html>.

□ Lorraine Stanton, Manager of e-Learning Support



## AFTER-HOURS ITS TECHNICAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE

The usual Help Center hours from Information and Technology Services (ITS) are from 8 AM – 5 PM, Monday through Friday during the fall, spring, and summer semesters, as well as during the summer and semester breaks. But ITS understands that emergencies can occur at anytime. Therefore, they have set up after-hours sup-

port through the ext. 7-3100 Help Center phone number.

When calling for after-hours help, users will be presented with two choices:

1. Non-emergency, which allows the caller to leave a message for the Help Center to address ASAP during regular business hours, and

2. Emergency, system-wide outage, which allows the caller to leave a message reporting a system outage. A technician will be paged immediately to respond to the problem.

ITS is continually striving to make sure that your teaching and learning needs are being met.

STRIVING TO  
MEET YOUR  
NEEDS,  
ON YOUR  
TIMETABLE!

## ACCESS ALL OF YOUR CAMPUS FILES FROM HOME, OR ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WITH NETSTORAGE

Did you know that you can upload and download files for editing from your campus H:\ drive or shared Novell drives with an Internet connected computer via your web browser? Thanks to ITS, NetStorage allows you to do all such tasks easily.

◆ You can rename, copy, or move files and directories.

◆ Files may be downloaded or uploaded.

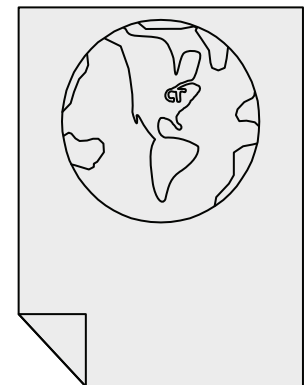
◆ A broadband connection is recommended but not required.

For example, download the file you want to edit and save it to your local computer (at home, traveling, etc.). After editing or creating a new file,

it can be uploaded back to your H:\ drive or shared Novell drive.

Instructions for logging in and using NetStorage can be found at <http://www.helpcenter.uncc.edu/WFH/netstorage.html>.

□ Mark Sivy, Associate Director, FCTel





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WebCT Support: [www.uncc.edu/webct](http://www.uncc.edu/webct)

Student E-Learning: [www3.uncc.edu/elearning](http://www3.uncc.edu/elearning)

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.FCTEL.UNCC.EDU](http://WWW.FCTEL.UNCC.EDU)



BRIDGING METHODS OF INSTRUCTION  
& EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.

## WEBCT VISTA PILOT TESTING UNDERWAY

WebCT Vista, the newest version of WebCT, is now being pilot-tested with 12 faculty and almost 800 students. Results so far have been very good, and students are taking easily to the new medium. Faculty are finding that the interface and streamlined features of WebCT Vista offer many new, desirable options over the current version of WebCT ("Campus Edition"), including a greatly improved "student view", better gradebook, and more options for interactivity and collaboration. The implementation of WebCT Vista at UNC Charlotte will begin in Fall 2006 and be completed by Fall 2007, during which time WebCT Campus Edition will be phased out. FCTeL has been using information from the pilot test to fine-tune our support and training for this new product, and new workshops are being offered to select groups within the broader campus community already. More details about the implementation of WebCT Vista are available here: <http://www.fcotel.uncc.edu/projects/index.html>. Stay tuned for upcoming WebCT Vista news and updates in our newsletter and web-sites.



□ Lorraine Stanton, Manager of e-Learning Support

## NEW WEBCT VISTA WEBSITE NOW AVAILABLE

The central gateway for all support related information regarding WebCT Vista is found at <http://webctvista.uncc.edu>. The WebCT Vista website contains a wealth of information for WebCT Vista, and is currently being used by the faculty and students currently pilot-testing WebCT Vista. Though most WebCT users are currently not using WebCT Vista, this site is also available to those interested in learning more about the product. The WebCT Vista website's main page contains timely information on such

things as server status and any news of a general nature. From there, both faculty and students can access their respective support sites which contains user-specific information on common access issues related to WebCT. Included on the website are interactive tutorials, how-to guides, and links to related products. In addition, links are provided for commonly accessed information like help requests and validated browsers.

□ Ron Lewis, Instructional Technology Consultant

## WEBCT VISTA MIGRATION SCHEDULE

All WebCT courses will move to WebCT Vista by Fall 2007. Months in advance of moving to WebCT Vista, faculty in groups below will be notified by email with detailed directions on migration as well as important information about training and support:

### Fall 2006

- ◆ Distance Education faculty and their courses
- ◆ Courses using Wimba
- ◆ Select COIT programs
- ◆ Newly developed courses or new faculty users

### Spring 2007

- ◆ CoED
- ◆ CoHHS
- ◆ CoE
- ◆ CoIT

### Fall 2007

- ◆ CoAS
- ◆ CoBA
- ◆ CoA
- ◆ All remaining or new WebCT courses

As always, FCTeL will offer training, support, and orientations for faculty and their students. Please email FCTeL with any questions: [fcotel@email.uncc.edu](mailto:fcotel@email.uncc.edu).